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seums and other Scientific Institutions, Physicians and others, who have essentially promoted the Natural History Sciences by original contributions of any kind. Any member may present to the Executive Committee of the Society or of the Branch to which he belongs names of candidates for membership, and those candidates who are approved by the Committee may be elected to membership in the Society by a majority of the members present at any meeting of the Branch.

Annual dues, \$1.00.

*This December Meeting—December 31, 1908*

The next meeting of the American Society of Naturalists will be held in Baltimore, Md., at Johns Hopkins Medical School, in the auditorium of the Physiological Building, Thursday, December 31, 1908, at 3 P.M. The address of the President, Professor D. P. Penhallow, of McGill University, will be on "The Functions of the American Society of Naturalists." There will then be a brief discussion in which matters of much importance to the Society will be brought up. Speakers will be limited to ten minutes. Several prominent investigators have already agreed to take part. The annual business meeting will follow.

The coming meeting is important. It has become necessary to secure positive action from its members if the integrity of the society is to be maintained. Shall the Society be permitted to dissolve? No other association emphasizes so well the distinctively scientific interests of this group of special societies as does the Society of Naturalists. It should, therefore, be made more representative of those societies for which it stands. Its affiliated societies should always retain complete independence, and yet will be able to accomplish more for science by establishing more practical machinery for cooperation. The Naturalists will then be able to act together effectively in dealing with general problems or with other more general societies.

The usual annual dinner will this year be merged with the Darwin dinner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held on the evening of January 1, 1909. This Society has also been invited to attend the Darwin Memorial Exercises on January 1, organized under the auspices of the American Association.

Members are requested to send their correct addresses, etc., to the secretary at once, so that an accurate membership list may be printed.

For particulars of the arrangements of rates, hotels, etc., for the Baltimore meeting consult the

Announcement of the American Association, or Dr. L. O. Howard, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

By order of the Executive Committee:

D. P. PENHALLOW, *President.*

T. H. MORGAN, *Vice-President and  
Chairman of the Eastern Branch.*

R. A. HARPER, *Vice-President and  
Chairman of the Central Branch.*

THOS. G. LEE, *Secretary of Central  
Branch.*

H. VON SCHRENK, *Treasurer.*

O. W. CALDWELL, } *Members of Execu-*  
W. R. COE, } *tive Committee.*

H. McE. KNOWER, *Secretary,*  
*Johns Hopkins Medical School,*  
*Baltimore, Md.*

December 1, 1908

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

ACCORDING to a cablegram to the daily papers from Stockholm, King Gustaf distributed the Nobel prizes on December 10. The awards, not identical in the cases of physics and literature with those cabled to this country last week, are as follows: Literature, Dr. Rudolf Eucken, professor of philosophy at Jena; physics, Professor Gabriel Lippman, of the University of Paris; chemistry, Professor Ernest Rutherford, director of the physical laboratory of the University of Manchester, England; medicine, divided between Dr. Paul Ehrlich, of Berlin, and Professor Elie Metchnikoff, of the Pasteur Institute, Paris; the promotion of peace, K. P. Arnoldson, of Sweden, and M. F. Bajer, of Denmark.

THE Paris Academy of Sciences has divided the LaLande prize between Professor W. L. Elkin, director of the Yale Observatory, and Dr. F. L. Chase, assistant astronomer in the observatory, for their papers on "The Parallaxes of 163 Stars." Mr. M. F. Smith, assistant in the observatory, was given honorable mention in the award.

PROFESSOR GEORGE DAVIDSON, head of the geographical department of the University of California, has been presented with the Charles P. Daly medal of the American Geographical Society.

DR. JOHN G. CURTIS, professor of physiology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of

Columbia University since 1875, and Dr. T. Mitchell Prudden, professor of pathology since 1891, will retire on June 30, next.

DR. E. BENJAMIN ANDREWS has been compelled by failing health to resign the chancellorship of the University of Nebraska, and will retire from the office December 31, 1908. On December 8 a special convocation was held of students and faculties in honor of the retiring chancellor, at which somewhat extended addresses were made by Honorable William G. Whitmore of the board of regents, Judge E. P. Holmes of the alumni, and Professor C. E. Bessey of the university faculties. On the evening of the same day, the Faculty Dinner Club gave a complimentary banquet at which distinguished men from all parts of the state were present to do him honor. Many short addresses were made by representatives of the professors, regents, alumni and citizens of the state, as well as by the governor and the governor-elect. The banquet was closed by a farewell address by Dr. Andrews.

IN addition to the program of addresses to be given at the Darwin celebration already published in *SCIENCE* on October 30, page 602, certain brief addresses have been arranged for at the time of the dinner as follows: Professor W. H. Welch, "On the Debt of Medicine to Darwinism"; Professor Edward Poulton, and Professor Albrecht Penck, "On the Geographical Factor in Evolution." The details of the dinner arrangements will be published at the time of the meeting. The dinner will be a memorable occasion and all will wish to attend. In order that proper accommodations may be supplied, it will be necessary to obtain tickets for the dinner as early as possible during convocation week.

MR. CHARLES H. TOWNSEND, director of the New York Aquarium, has been made a life member of the American Museum of Natural History, in recognition of his gift of mounted specimens of birds from Alaska and ethnological material from the South Sea Islands.

DR. BASHFORD DEAN, professor of vertebrate zoology in Columbia University, has been elected an honorary fellow because of gratuitous services during the past five years to the

department of vertebrate paleontology, especially in respect to the collection of fossil fishes.

THE Rev. Thomas Roscoe Reid Stebbing, M.A., F.R.S., F.L.S., gold medalist of the Linnean Society, formerly fellow and tutor of Worcester College, Oxford, has been elected an honorary fellow of the college.

PRESIDENT CHARLES F. COX has been appointed the delegate of the New York Academy of Sciences to the Darwin centennial anniversary exercises at the University of Cambridge.

PROFESSOR EDWARD E. PRINCE, fish commissioner of Canada, has been appointed, in place of Mr. Samuel T. Bastedo, resigned, the British representative on the International Fisheries Commission having in charge the preparation of joint statutes to govern the fisheries of the international boundary waters. President David Starr Jordan is the American Commissioner.

AN investigation into the cause of cancer and its possible prevention and cure has been begun in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, under the direction of a committee consisting of Dr. Samuel W. Lambert, dean; Dr. William J. Gies, professor of biological chemistry; Dr. Philip Hanson Hiss, Jr., professor of bacteriology; Dr. Francis Carter Wood, professor of clinical pathology; Dr. Gary N. Calkins, professor of protozoology, and Dr. Eugene H. Pool, instructor in the department of surgery.

THE field parties of the U. S. Biological Survey have now returned to Washington for the winter. The biological survey of New Mexico under Vernon Bailey, assisted by E. A. Goldman and Clarence Birdseye, is nearly completed. Field work in southern Utah, discontinued several years ago, has been resumed under W. H. Osgood. Field work in Colorado, under Merritt Cary, has been finished, and the report is now nearly ready for publication. In the southern states work on geographic distribution has been continued by A. H. Howell in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Virginia.

OFFPRINTS of articles on genetics for notice in the *Zeitschrift für induktive Abstammungs- und Vererbungslehre* should be sent to Dr. E. M. East, Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, Conn.

PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE TAFT will deliver the oration at the University of Pennsylvania at the annual celebration on Washington's birthday.

DR. FRANCIS G. BENEDICT, director of the Nutrition Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution at Boston, will give the first of a series of special lectures on hygiene to the students of the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Benedict will speak on "The Influence of Mental and Muscular Work on the Assimilation of Food."

THE regular meeting of the Columbia Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi was held on December 10, when Professor William H. Burr, of the department of civil engineering, addressed the society on the topic "The Quebec and Blackwells Island Cantilever Bridges." The lecturer discussed the cause of the failure of the former and the recent criticisms of the latter and the reports of the investigations of that structure recently made public.

At the first meeting of the Cornell Chapter of Sigma Xi for the present year, held on November 21, President Edmund A. Engler, of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, gave an address on "The Reign of Law." About forty members of the chapter were present.

DR. J. PAUL GOODE, of the University of Chicago, gave an address before the Geographical Society of Chicago, on December 11, on the subject "The Great Seaports of Europe."

PROFESSOR S. A. MITCHELL, of Columbia University, has been delivering courses of lectures on astronomy at Asbury Park, N. J., Totterville, N. Y., and Newark, N. J.

THE Vienna College of Physicians will celebrate the centenary of the death of Auenbrugger, the inventor of percussion, on May 18, 1909. A marble memorial tablet will be placed on the house in which he died.

A MEDALLION of M. Laveran has been placed in the military hospital of Constantine,

Algiers, where he discovered the parasite of malaria in 1880.

MRS. FREDERICK F. THOMPSON has given to the New York State Museum as a memorial of her father, former Governor Myron H. Clark, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, for a representation of the culture of the Six Nations of New York, to be known as the Clark Museum of Iroquois Culture.

A PRESS despatch from Washington, dated December 8, says: "Appropriations aggregating \$636,300 were made to-day at the annual meeting of the board of trustees of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. This amount is not intended to cover any new work, but will cover the operations of the institution planned for 1909. Dr. Carroll D. Wright, president of Clark College, presented his resignation as trustee, but indicated a desire to continue his work as director of the department of economics and sociology of the institution. Dr. Charles W. Eliot, president of Harvard University, and Mr. Martin A. Ryerson, of Chicago, were elected trustees of the institution to fill vacancies in the board."

THE graduate clubs of the departments of philosophy, history, political economy, political science and sociology of the University of Chicago have formed an interdepartmental organization known as the Social Science Clubs Union with Mr. L. L. Bernard, of the department of sociology, as president. The union plans to have during the year a number of meetings and four lectures, by distinguished men from outside the university, on topics of interest to all the departments. The meeting of December 17 will be addressed by Professor Roscoe Pound, of Northwestern University Law School, on "Freedom of Contract—the notion of an inviolable right of contracting as one pleases which is one of the chief legal obstacles in the way of modern social legislation." The union has the financial backing of the university.

PORTRAITS, given by various persons, of the following distinguished men have been framed and hung in the seminary room of the social sciences and history in Linsly Hall, Yale University: Christopher Columbus, William Pat-

terson, Adam Smith, John Law, Arthur Young, the Earl of Shaftesbury, Herbert Spencer, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Jeremy Bentham, P. J. Proudhon, Charles Fourier, Sir William Petty, Robert Owen.

THE necessary appropriation having been made by the trustees of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, on December 8, 1908, the contract for the construction of the magnetic survey yacht *Carnegie* was awarded on December 9, as the result of competition, to the Tobe Yacht Basin Company, of Brooklyn, N. Y. The vice-president and manager of this firm, Mr. Wallace Downey, has had charge of the building of several well-known yachts, *e. g.*, the *Meteor* (Kaiser Wilhelm's yacht) and the *Atlantic*, which won the Atlantic cup race of 1906. The vessel is to be completed by July 1, 1909. Mr. Henry J. Gielow, of New York City, is the naval architect and engineer-in-charge; he will be assisted in the work of inspection by Mr. W. J. Peters, formerly in command of the *Galilee* and to have charge of the *Carnegie*. The general dimensions of the *Carnegie* will be: length over all, 155½ feet; length on load water line, 128½ feet; beam molded, 33 feet; draught, 12 feet 7 inches.

ACCORDING to despatches to the London papers from New Zealand, the *Nimrod* sailed on December 1 from Lyttelton for King Edward VII. Land, to take on board Lieutenant E. H. Shackleton, R.N.R., and his party of explorers, who, for the best part of the year, have been engaged in an attempt to reach the South Pole. The *Nimrod* left England in August, 1907, and arrived at New Zealand on November 23, 1907. After embarking Lieutenant Shackleton and the other scientific men and explorers, the *Nimrod* left Lyttelton on January 1, 1908, and made her way southward to the ice-pack. The explorers landed and the *Nimrod* came back to Lyttelton. Since then she has undergone a thorough overhaul, and the scientists' quarters on deck have been enlarged to nearly twice their original size, so that in the event of any of the shore party being ill they would have some place to use as a hospital. It is anticipated that six weeks

will be taken in the passage from Lyttelton to the landing place in the far south. Lieutenant Shackleton and his party will, it is hoped, put in an appearance before the end of February, after which the *Nimrod* would make her way back to Lyttelton. It appears improbable that the ship will have to winter in the Antarctic. The vessel takes with her from Lyttelton to the Antarctic 280 tons of coal, and stores sufficient to last thirty-eight men for one year. She is now commanded by Lieutenant F. P. Evans, R.N.R., who was master of the steamer which towed the *Nimrod* from Lyttelton to the ice-pack at the beginning of the present year.

THE third series of Norman W. Harris lectures at Northwestern University, given by Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, from December 3 to 8 on "The Age of the Mammals of Europe and America," was as follows:

Lecture I. Rise and Progress of Paleontological Discovery in Europe and America. Relations of Exploration, Research and Theory of Interpretation. Leaders in American Discoveries and Paleontological Methods.

Lecture II. General Comparison of the Physiography of America and Europe during the Age of Mammals and the Close of the Reptilian Age. Principals of Paleogeography. Sources of the World Stock of Mammals and of Successive Migrations.

Lecture III. Decline of the Archaic or Mesozoic Mammals, and Rise of the Modernized Mammals in America and Europe during the Eocene and Oligocene Periods. The Common and Independent Evolution on the Two Continents. Principles of Adaptive Radiation or Divergence.

Lecture IV. The Middle or Miocene Period. Invasion and Prevalence of African Types and Conditions of Life.

Lecture V. The Pliocene Period, Invasion and Intermingling of South American Forms. Contrasts and Resemblances between American and European Conditions.

Lecture VI. The Early and Mid-Pleistocene Periods. Extinction of the Large American Native Animals, and Repopulation from Europe and Asia. Causes of Extinction. Conclusions as to the Nature and Causes of Evolution of the Mammals.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Transcript* writes that simplified phonetic spelling is to be introduced in the public schools of France by

M. Dougmergue, the minister of public instruction. This reform received the approval of the French Academy as long ago as 1893, but has not heretofore received government sanction. It provides for the suppression of the "h" in the Greek group of words like "rhetorique," "rhinoceros," etc., the substitution of "i" for "y" in "analyse," "style," etc., the substitution of "c" for the sibilant "t" in words like "confidential," etc., and the extension of the "s" as a sign of the plural in words ending in "ou," "eau" and "au." It also provides for the suppression of the "h" in words like "theatre," the substitution of "f" for "ph" in words like "phenomene" and the elimination of the double "n" in words like "paysanne."

SINCE 1890 there has existed in Paris a little museum of hygiene, containing among other things, the exhibits which figured in the Paris pavilion of hygiene at the exposition of 1900, and which have to do especially with the sanitation of dwellings, the emptying of latrines and sewers, etc. According to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association there is now a plan to complete and to install the collections so as to make of them a real model museum of hygiene and sanitation. It will comprise the twelve following sections: Air and light (composition, meteorology; lighting of the city; lighting, heating and ventilation of the house); water (composition and bacteriology; flowing waters of rivers and springs, ozonation; distribution, filters, private baths, etc.); food and clothing (composition of foods, nutritive value, adulteration, sterilization of milk; hygiene of clothing, impermeability, etc.); preventive hygiene (disinfection, measures against fire, materials of construction); hygiene of infancy (feeding of infants, gymnastics); establishments such as hospitals, asylums, soup-kitchens; hygiene of special establishments (arrangement, heating, etc., of barracks, prisons, schools, cheap houses); residues of life (cemeteries and cremation; household refuse; rain-water and slops, night soil; sewers; emptying of used waters); public conveyances (omnibuses and fiacres; neat-

ness, ventilation, disinfection, cleaning, etc.); smoke; demography; library.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

WE regret to learn that the will of Frederick Cooper Hewitt, which made large bequests for public purposes, including \$500,000 to Yale University, is being contested by a sister.

GOVERNOR JOHN J. JOHNSON, of Minnesota, went to Washington on December 12, to invite President Roosevelt on behalf of the regents to accept the presidency of the University of Minnesota, but he declined this invitation.

DR. SAMUEL AVERY, head professor of chemistry in the University of Nebraska, was elected acting chancellor at a recent meeting of the regents, on account of the resignation of Chancellor Andrews. Dr. Avery will assume the duties of the office on January 1.

HON. TIMOTHY HOPKINS, of Menlo Park, California, well known as a patron of zoological research, and for whom the nudibranch genus of *Hopkinsia* has been named, has been elected president of the board of trustees of Stanford University.

DR. HOCHSTETTER, professor of anatomy at Innsbruck, has been appointed to the chair of anatomy in the University of Vienna.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE FIVE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIPZIG

DURING August, 1909, the University of Leipzig is to celebrate its Five Hundredth Anniversary. It would be eminently fitting for the Americans who have taken their doctor's degrees at Leipzig to send to the university on that occasion some formal address of congratulation. A list of about one hundred Americans who have taken their degrees at Leipzig has been prepared, including all of the names of American scientists mentioned in "American Men of Science" and such others as could be secured from a few former Leipzig students in the vicinity of New York and New Haven.

A small committee has organized itself in